Salvation By Grace

The Reasons that Grace Must Be Unconditional

Assumptions

- 1. God is.
- 2. God gave **Scripture**.
- 3. Scripture is *absolute* truth.
- 4. The *King James Bible* is scripture.
- 5. The devil is at war against God and truth.
- 6. All the thoughts of all men are vain.
- 7. God's glory is the ultimate end of all things.

Introduction

- 1. All religions and doctrinal systems are either conditional or unconditional.
- 2. Conditional means man does something.
- 3. Unconditional means man does nothing.
- 4. The issue is <u>salvation from hell</u> and <u>eternal life</u>, not practical salvation here in this life.
- 5. **Any** condition *becomes a work*, which true grace does not allow at all (Rom 11:6,35).
- 6. **Any** condition *makes God a debtor*, which He is not at all (Rom 4:4; Gal 2:21; 5:4).
- 7. Either God gives eternal life by free grace, or man does something to get it for himself.

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- 8. Some require Moses' law, sacraments, baptism, church membership, or repentance and a decision for Jesus.
- 9. All five of these options *make man his own savior*, for then man rather than God determines who is saved and who is not.
- 10. God gives eternal life as a gift: He gets all the glory, and man is fully dependent.
- 11. God *planned* eternal life before creation, and *He performs* all the operations of grace.
- 12. Man is *entirely passive* in getting eternal life.
- 13. *Faith* or any obedience toward God *result* from this gift they are not conditions for it.
- 14. There are seven categories of Bible proofs to show the certainty of this doctrine.

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- 15. Of course, unconditional salvation is <u>not popular</u>, because it **removes all fear and bondage of men**. How many would pay for indulgences to Rome, if salvation were free?
- 16. Of course, unconditional salvation is <u>not popular</u>, because it puts man in the dust **totally dependent on God** for mercy.
- 17. Of course, unconditional salvation is <u>not popular</u>, because it **removes all the glory from man** and transfers it to God alone.

Proof #1: Man By Nature Is Unable to Obey or Please God for Eternal Life

- 1.God told Adam he would **die** if he ate the fruit (Gen 2:17). Do you believe God?
- 2. Adam ate the fruit and *died spiritually* toward God, though he lived for another 930 years.
- 3. Because of Adam's action *his race* is born dead (Eph 2:1-3; Col 2:13).
- 4. Their death is of *spiritual ability and desire*.
 - 1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
 - 2 Wherein in time past ye walked <u>according to the course of this world</u>, according to <u>the prince of the power of the air</u>, the spirit that now worketh in the <u>children of disobedience</u>:
 - 3 Among whom also **we all** had our conversation in times past in the <u>lusts of our flesh</u>, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were <u>by nature</u> the <u>children of wrath</u>, even as others. (Ephesians 2:1-3)

Proof #1: Man By Nature Is Unable to Obey or Please God for Eternal Life - 2

5. Man hates God and will not seek or fear Him.

"The <u>wicked</u>, through the pride of his countenance, **will not seek** after God: God **is not** in all his thoughts" (Ps 10:4).

"There is **none** that <u>understandeth</u>, there is **none** that <u>seeketh after God</u>... There is **no** <u>fear of</u> <u>God</u> before their eyes" (Rom 3:11,18).

"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God" (Rom 8:7-8).

6. He *cannot* <u>please</u>, <u>hear</u>, or <u>know</u> Him.

"Why do ye **not** <u>understand my speech</u>? even because ye **cannot hear** my word.... He that <u>is of</u> <u>God</u> **heareth** God's words: ye therefore **hear** them **not**, *because* <u>ye are not of God</u>" (John 8:43,47).

"But the <u>natural man</u> receiveth *not* the things of the Spirit of God: for they are <u>foolishness</u> unto him: *neither* can <u>he know them</u>, because they are <u>spiritually discerned</u>" (I Cor 2:14).

Proof #1: Man By Nature Is Unable to Obey or Please God for Eternal Life - 3

7. God fully considered *man's condition* when planning eternal life (Ps 14:1-3).

1 The <u>fool</u> hath said in his heart, *There is no God*. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is **none that doeth good**.

2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.

3 They are **all** gone aside, they are **all together** become <u>filthy</u>: there is **none** that <u>doeth good</u>, **no**, **not one**.

8. Rehabilitative efforts will not improve him.

"Let <u>favour</u> be shewed to the wicked, yet **will he not learn righteousness**: in the <u>land of uprightness</u> will **he deal unjustly**, and **will not** behold the majesty of the LORD" (Isaiah 26:10).

"And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16:31).

Proof #1: Man By Nature Is Unable to Obey or Please God for Eternal Life - 4

9. **Faith** is required to please God, **but** *natural men have no faith*.

"But without faith it is **impossible** to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb 11:6).

"And that we may be **delivered** *from* <u>unreasonable</u> and <u>wicked men</u>: *for* <u>all men have not faith</u>." (II Thess 3:2)

10. The flesh *wars against* the Spirit: God must work the will or doing of His good pleasure.

"For the <u>flesh</u> lusteth **against** the <u>Spirit</u>, and the <u>Spirit</u> **against** the <u>flesh</u>: and <u>these are contrary</u> the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would" (Gal 5:17).

[&]quot;For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Phil 2:13).

Proof #2: God Expressly Denies Man's Will and Works in Obtaining Salvation

1. The Bible *denies* man's will in eternal life.

"Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:13)

"So then it is **not** of him that <u>willeth</u>, nor of him that <u>runneth</u>, but **of God** that sheweth mercy." (Rom 9:16)

2. The Bible *denies* man's works in eternal life.

"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work" (Rom 11:6).

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;" (Titus 3:5).

Proof #2: God Expressly Denies Man's Will and Works in Obtaining Salvation - 2

3. God saves men while they are dead, not willing or working.

6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.... 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. (Romans 5:6,10)

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, *Even* when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)" (Ephesians 2:4-5)

- 4. Salvation is *by grace*, so there *cannot* be any **works of man** involved in it.
- 5. Salvation is a *free gift*, so there *cannot* be any **action of man** that puts God in debt.

Proof #2: God Expressly Denies Man's Will and Works in Obtaining Salvation - 3

- 6. Faith that is viewed as a *condition for eternal life* is salvation by **works**.
- 7. Those verses that set faith in opposition to works are doing so relative to the works of Moses' Law.
- 8. Those verses that set faith in opposition to works are doing so on the basis of faith not being a condition.
- 9. Faith is a work (John 6:28-29).
- 10. Faith is a law matter (Matt 23:23).
- 11. Faith is a commandment (I John 3:23).
- 12. Faith without works is dead, so it must have works, which denies grace (Jas 2:14-26).

Proof #2: God Expressly Denies Man's Will and Works in Obtaining Salvation - 4

13. Only God's will is active in giving eternal life.

"The **wind** bloweth <u>where it listeth</u>, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: **so** is <u>every one</u> that **is born** of the Spirit." (John 3:8)

"For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will" (John 5:21).

"For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion" (Rom 9:15).

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will" (Eph 1:5).

"Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God.... By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." (Heb 10:9-10)

1. Any spiritual <u>desire</u> or <u>ability</u> must be **worked in** us **by God**.

"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Phil 2:13).

"Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power" (Ps 110:3).

"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." (Rom 8:15)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace ... faith" (Gal 5:22).

"And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me" (Jer 32:39-40).

2. The ability to see, hear, or know God results from salvation.

"The <u>hearing</u> ear, and the <u>seeing</u> eye, the **LORD hath made** even both of them" (Prov 20:12).

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, *Except* a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

"He that **is of** God **heareth** God's words: <u>ye</u> therefore **hear them not**, because <u>ye are not of</u> <u>God</u>" (John 8:47).

"As thou hast given him <u>power</u> over <u>all flesh</u>, that he should **give** <u>eternal life</u> to **as many as thou hast given him**. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:2-3).

"At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O **Father**, Lord of heaven and earth, because **thou hast hid these things** from the wise and prudent, and **hast revealed them** unto babes." (Matt 11:25)

3. We are created *unto* good works, not *because of* good works.

"For we are **his** workmanship, **created** in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph 2:10).

"Who gave himself for us, that **he** might <u>redeem</u> us from all iniquity, and <u>purify</u> unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Tit 2:14).

4. Faith itself is given in salvation, for it is a gift of God resulting from salvation.

"Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost" (I Cor 12:3).

"But the fruit of the Spirit is ... faith" (Gal 5:22-23).

"Simon Peter ... to them that **have obtained** like precious <u>faith</u> with us **through the righteousness of God** and our Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Pet 1:1).

5. Faith and works are evidences of salvation!

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that **feareth** him, and **worketh** righteousness, **is accepted** with him." (Acts 10:34-35)

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that **heareth** my word, and **believeth** on him that sent me, **hath** everlasting life, and **shall not** come into condemnation; but *is passed* from death unto life" (John 5:24).

"If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that <u>every one</u> that **doeth** righteousness *is* **born** of him" (I John 2:29).

"Little children, let no man deceive you: he that **doeth** righteousness **is** righteous, even as he is righteous" (I John 3:7).

"We know that we *have passed* from death unto life, because we **love** the brethren" (I John 3:14).

5. Faith and works are evidences of salvation!

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that **loveth** *is born* of God, and **knoweth** God" (I John 4:7).

"Whosoever **shall confess** that Jesus is the Son of God, God **dwelleth** in him, and he in God." (I John 4:15)

"Whosoever **believeth** that Jesus is the Christ *is born* of God: and every one that **loveth** him that begat **loveth** him also that is begotten of him."(I John 5:1)

"For whatsoever *is born* of God **overcometh** the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our *faith*" (I John 5:4).

1. Salvation is by the obedience of One!

"Wherefore, **as** by **one man** sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and **so** death passed <u>upon all men</u>, for that <u>all have sinned</u>....

For if by **one man's** offence <u>death reigned</u> by one; **much more** they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness <u>shall reign in life</u> by **one**, Jesus Christ.)

Therefore **as** by the **offence of one** <u>judgment came upon all men</u> to condemnation; **even so** by the **righteousness of one** the <u>free gift came upon all men</u> unto justification of life.

For **as** by **one** man's <u>disobedience</u> many were made sinners, **so** by the <u>obedience</u> of **one** shall many be made righteous." (Romans 5:12-19)

1. Salvation is by the obedience of **One**!

- a. Adam and Christ were both representatives.
- b. They acted **legally** for others before God.
- c. Adam condemned you no matter your acts.
- d. Adam **condemned** you no matter your **belief**.
- e. How do we get into Adam? By conception.
- f. How do we get into **Christ**? By **election**.
- g. Jesus obeyed for the elect (Eph 1:4-6; I Pet 1:2).
- h. We know we are in Christ by acting like Him.

2. Salvation is by means of the testator's death!

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come ... by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.... How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

And for this cause **he** is the <u>mediator</u> of the new testament, that **by means of death**, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which **are called** might <u>receive</u> the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator" (Heb 9:11-17).

- 2. Salvation is by means of the testator's death!
 - a. Jesus entered heaven Himself to save us.
 - b. He offered Himself to God, not to sinners.
 - c. Salvation is by means of the mediator's death.
 - d. Eternal life is the free choice of the testator.
 - e. The transaction was between God and Christ.

3. Jesus Christ <u>purged</u> our <u>sins</u> away **by Himself**!

"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had **by himself** <u>purged our sins</u>, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb 1:3).

"Lo, I come to do thy will, O God.... By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.... But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God ... For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified" (Heb 10:9-14).

4. He brought salvation and finished it Himself!

"I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." (Genesis 3:15)

Jesus said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost (John 19:30).

5. Any additions to Christ defeat the gospel!

"I do not <u>frustrate</u> the grace of God: for if <u>righteousness</u> come by the law, then Christ is dead in **vain**" (Gal 2:21).

"Christ is become of **no effect** unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace" (Gal 5:4).

6. Mary had a **Son**, and **He** saved His people!

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **JESUS**: *for* he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt 1:21).

"But when the fulness of the time was come, **God** <u>sent</u> <u>forth</u> his **Son**, made of a woman, made under the law, <u>To redeem</u> them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And <u>because ye are sons</u>, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father" (Gal 4:4-6).

- 1. Rome and her daughters teach **sacraments**, but scripture denies grace in **ordinances**.
- 2. The **ordinances** were delivered to <u>saints</u>, not sinners (I Cor 11:1-2).
- 3. Baptism does *not* save by washing away the filth of our <u>sinful flesh</u>: it is <u>only</u> a **figure**.

"The like figure whereunto even **baptism** doth also now <u>save</u> us (*not* the putting away of the <u>filth of the flesh</u>, *but* the answer of a <u>good conscience</u> toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:" (I Peter 3:21)

4. The Lord's Supper is a **memorial** of Christ's death, **not** the application of it.

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do **shew** the Lord's death till he come." (I Cor 11:24-26)

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5. <u>Baptism</u>, the <u>Lord's Supper</u>, and the Spirit's <u>scriptures</u> and witness only **testify** of Him.

"And there are three that **bear witness** in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one" (I John 5:8).

6. Confirmation, Penance, Extreme Unction, Orders, and Matrimony are Rome's heresies.

- 7. The **heresy** that <u>baptism saves</u> is the greatest cause of salvation **error**.
 - a. This is correctly called **baptismal regeneration**.
 - b. **Rome** and **her** Lutheran, Episcopalian, Methodist, and Presbyterian **daughters** believe it.
 - c. Orthodox, Mormons, JW's, SDA's, Pentecostals, Campbellites, and **others** also believe it.
 - d. About 97.5% of all so-called Christians believe it!
 - e. Once accepted, you baptize as early as infants.
 - f. Once accepted, you baptize in any watery way.
 - g. Once accepted, you baptize for dead relatives.
 - h. Once accepted, you may even baptize in utero.

- 8. The **gospel** is **not** the <u>means of salvation</u>, **but** the good news <u>about salvation</u> to the saved.
- 9. The gospel cannot help a natural man at all.

"And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, <u>neither will they be</u> <u>persuaded</u>, though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16:31).

"Why do ye *not* understand my speech? even because ye *cannot* hear my word" (John 8:43).

"For the **preaching of the cross** is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor 1:18).

"But unto them which <u>are called</u>, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God" (I Cor 1:24).

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost" (II Cor 4:3).

10. The **gospel** brings eternal life **to light**.

"And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and <u>as many as</u> **were ordained** to <u>eternal life</u> **believed**." (Acts 13:48)

"For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the **savour** of <u>death unto death</u>; and to the other the **savour** of <u>life unto life</u>." (II Cor 2:15-16)

"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel: Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles. (II Timothy 1:9-11)

- 11. Salvation takes **God's creative power**, which the gospel cannot do (Eph 1:19-20; 2:1-7).
- 12. The **power** necessary for salvation resides **only** in the Lord **Jesus Christ** (Heb 4:12).

"For the **word of God** is <u>quick</u>, and <u>powerful</u>, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is **a discerner** of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb 4:12).

13. The **gospel** is the good news of salvation by **God's power**, not the power itself.

"I am ready to preach **the gospel** to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the **gospel of Christ**: for it is <u>the power of God unto salvation</u> to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom 1:15-16).

14. Salvation by gospel or ordinances *cannot* save infants, idiots, heretics, or the heathen.

Proof #6: The Scriptures Show Examples of Eternal Life without Conditions

1. John the Baptist was <u>filled</u> with the Holy Ghost and <u>leaped</u> for joy before birth!

"For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord ... and he shall be <u>filled</u> with the **Holy Ghost**, even <u>from his mother's womb</u>" (Luke 1:15).

"For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe <u>leaped</u> in my womb for **joy**" (Luke 1:44).

"For as many as are <u>led</u> by the **Spirit of God**, they **are** the <u>sons of God</u>" (Rom 8:14).

"But the fruit of the Spirit is ... joy" (Gal 5:22).

Proof #6: The Scriptures Show Examples of Eternal Life without Conditions - 2

2. Lot was just and <u>righteous</u>, but scripture shows him terribly in love with the world.

"And delivered **just Lot**, <u>vexed</u> with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

(For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)" (II Peter 2:7-8).

Proof #6: The Scriptures Show Examples of Eternal Life without Conditions - 3

3. **Cornelius** was <u>righteous</u> and <u>accepted with God</u> **before** meeting Peter and <u>hearing the gospel</u> or being baptism (Acts 10:1-4,34-35).

"A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always" (Acts 10:1-2).

"Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." (Acts 10:34-35)

4. A **rich young ruler** chose to keep his wealth rather than follow Jesus, but <u>He loved him!</u>

"Then **Jesus** beholding him **loved him**, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest:

go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions" (Mark 10:21-22).

5. The **Israel** that <u>came out of Egypt</u> under Moses was disobedient but <u>partook</u> of **Christ**.

"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that **all our fathers** were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And **were all baptized** unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

And **did all eat** the same **spiritual meat**; And **did all drink** the same **spiritual drink**: for they drank of that <u>spiritual Rock</u> that followed them: and **that Rock was Christ**.

But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness" (I Cor 10:1-5).

- 5. The **Israel** that <u>came out of Egypt</u> under Moses was disobedient but <u>partook</u> of **Christ**.
 - a. They did not obey the gospel (Hebrews 4:2).
 - b. They <u>displeased</u> **God**, lusted, fornicated, idolized, tempted, murmured (I Cor 10:5-10).
 - c. But they were the church (Acts 7:38).
 - d. But they were chosen (Deut 1:6-8), chastened (8:5), children (14:1), and loved (33:1-3).
 - e. They were the "fathers" of a Gentile church.
 - f. They were a legitimate <u>example</u> for **saints**, whom Paul said could also depart (Heb 4:1).
 - g. God chastened Corinth also (I Cor 11:30).

6. Part of **elect Israel** was <u>blinded to the gospel</u> to send preachers to the Gentiles.

"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

As <u>concerning the gospel</u>, they are **enemies** for your sakes: but as <u>touching the election</u>, they are **beloved** for the fathers' sakes" (Rom 11:25-28).

- 6. Part of **elect Israel** was <u>blinded to the gospel</u> to send preachers to the Gentiles.
 - a. These Jews were **enemies** of the gospel.
 - b. But they were **included** in the <u>election</u> (11:6).
 - c. They were **elect** by the "mystery" of the text.
 - d. They were elect by salvation through Christ.
 - e. The **Deliverer** came to Zion 2000 years ago.
 - f. The verbs were future tense only to Isaiah.
 - g. They did not stumble to fall (11:11).
 - h. They could be recovered (11:14,23).

7. A class of **Gentiles** have <u>never had the word of God</u>, but they are <u>justified</u> anyway.

"(For when the **Gentiles**, which **have not the law**, do <u>by nature</u> the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which **shew the work of the law** <u>written in their hearts</u>, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

Romans 2:13-15

7. A class of **Gentiles** have <u>never had the word of God</u>, but they are <u>justified</u> anyway.

"Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?... For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God" (Rom 2:26-29).

- a. God's law is written in them (Heb 8:8-12).
- b. God circumcised their hearts (Rom 2:28-29)

8. Men <u>fall</u> from the true **gospel** and **good works** and have their <u>faith overthrown</u>, but they **cannot** lose their unconditional <u>eternal life</u>.

"And this is the **Father's will** which hath sent me, that of **all** which **he hath given** me I **should lose nothing**, but should raise it up again at the last day" (John 6:39).

"Christ is become of **no effect** unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are **fallen from grace**" (Gal 5:4).

8. Men <u>fall</u> from the true **gospel** and **good works** and have their <u>faith overthrown</u>, but they **cannot** lose their unconditional eternal life.

"Who **concerning the truth** <u>have erred</u>, saying that the resurrection is past already; and <u>overthrow the faith of some</u>. Nevertheless the **foundation of God** <u>standeth sure</u>, having this seal, **The Lord knoweth** <u>them that are his</u>. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity" (II Tim 2:18-19).

9. Unless you hold that all infants and idiots are in hell, you have already accepted this point.

1. Conditions give all the glory to man!

"Now to him that worketh is the reward *not* reckoned of grace, but of debt" (Rom 4:4).

"Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph 2:9).

"For **who** maketh thee to differ from another? and **what** hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?" (I Cor 4:7).

- 2. If **God** has done <u>all He can</u> to save all men, **but** their <u>salvation depends</u> on **them** to <u>complete</u> it, then **they are their own Saviour**!
- 3. Those in this error speak of getting to heaven to thank some man for getting them there!
- 4. Those in **hell** <u>have</u> as much <u>reason</u> to **thank God** for eternal life as those in heaven!

5. But **God** wants **all the glory** for Himself!

"Ye see your **calling**, brethren, how that <u>not many wise</u> men after the flesh, <u>not many mighty</u>, <u>not many noble</u>, are called: But **God hath chosen** the <u>foolish</u> things of the world ...

That no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord" (I Cor 1:26-31).

5. But **God** wants **all the glory** for Himself!

"But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God" (Rom 2:29).

"And that he might make known the riches of **his** glory on the <u>vessels of mercy</u>, which **he had afore prepared** <u>unto glory</u>" (Rom 9:23).

"That in the ages to come **he** might shew <u>the exceeding</u> <u>riches of his grace</u> in **his kindness** <u>toward us</u> through Christ Jesus" (Eph 2:7).

6. God created all things – even the wicked – for His own pleasure!

"The **LORD** hath made <u>all things</u> for **himself**: yea, **even** the **wicked** for the <u>day of evil</u>" (Prov 16:4).

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created <u>all things</u>, and for thy pleasure they are and were created" (Rev 4:11).

7. Salvation is by **God's predestinating purpose** for <u>His own glory!</u>

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children *by* Jesus Christ *to* himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved" (Eph 1:5-6).

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ" (Eph 1:11-12).

Conclusion

- 1. The world's religions and most so-called Christian denominations stand **opposed** to God's salvation as taught in Holy Scripture.
- 2. If you see and love God's wisdom and power in Christ, then you are saved (I Cor 1:24).
- 3. If you are thankful for His gracious salvation, then you should answer Him (I Pet 3:21).
- 4. If you are already <u>baptized</u>, you **must** <u>worship God</u> only in truth (John 4:24; Gal 1:8-9).